

To Nancy Rumrill/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

CC

bcc

Subject RE: Public Comments on Lahaina, HI WWRF UIC Permit Number HI50710003

Aloha Ms. Rumrill,

I'm attaching and pasting below a letter to your office requesting a public hearing for the permit review of Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility. If you have any questions I can be reached at this e-mail address or at 808.268.0303.

Thank you, Irene Bowie Irene Bowie Executive Director Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 299, Makawao, HI 96768

Phone: 808-268-0303

Nancy Rumrill

Sept 19. 2008

EPA Region 9 Office; Ground Water Office (WTR-9) 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Intent to issue an Underground injection control (UIC) permit for the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility

On behalf of Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. and its many supporters, I would like to comment on the upcoming permit review for the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii.

Maui Tomorrow requests that your agency hold a public hearing in Maui for this permit. Members of the West Maui community and citizen groups regularly write letters to the editor, testify at public hearings, and discuss the need to improve the ability of this facility to bring the majority of it effluent up to a level that meets health and safety standards for reuse.

We hope that your staff could tour the area and offer your expertise to help solve the water quality issues facing West Maui today. Our citizens deserve a chance to be heard in person, and the EPA deserves a chance to incorporate more community input into their decision making.

The problems in West Maui wastewater treatment have become very obvious in recent years. Our supporters have long advocated for the need to protect the nearby reefs along Kahekili beach (directly seaward from the wastewater treatment facility) from an excess of nutrient rich water.

Sadly, there were no studies ten years ago linking reef health and the nutrient levels of waters discharged from the Lahaina wastewater plant through their injection wells. But now studies have been done and the reefs at Kahekili undeniably show the negative effects of not finding

solutions for this problem.

High degrees of bacteria and viruses have been found in waters immediately surrounding the Lahaina wastewater plant's injection wells. Ironically, the same reclaimed effluent causing severe problems off-shore is desperately needed to irrigate the dry lands of Lahaina during times of prolonged drought, such as we are experiencing now.

We respectfully ask that any treatment plant permit include conditions which will result in a substantial reduction of wastewater pumped into injection wells and an increase in the amount of reclaimed water as well as distribution systems to utilize this reclaimed water to irrigate existing landscape areas and/or create protective greenbelts to lessen the threat of fires in West Maui.

Thank you for your consideration,

Irene Bowie Executive Director



MAUI TOMORROW FOUNDATION, INC.

Protecting Maui's Future

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Ground Water Office (WTR-9)

75 Hawthome Street San Francisco, CA 94105

ATTN: Nancy Rumrill

September 19, 2008

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Irene Bowie Executive Director

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Maut Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.

"Protecting Maui's Future"

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Irene Bowie

Executive Director